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North Dakota Homeland Security Anti-Terrorism Summary



The North Dakota Open Source Anti-Terrorism Summary is a product of the North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center (NDSLIC). It provides open source news articles and information on terrorism, crime, and potential destructive or damaging acts of nature or unintentional acts. Articles are placed in the Anti-Terrorism Summary to provide situational awareness for local law enforcement, first responders, government officials, and private/public infrastructure owners.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Emergency repairs completed at damaged Clausen Springs Dam in southeast North Dakota.

Emergency repairs have been completed at a damaged dam in southeast North Dakota, Associated Press reported April 1. The project engineer said about 2,000 cubic yards of rock and other material have been placed along the Clausen Springs Dam's eroded spillway. He said the work by the Fargo company was completed the week of March 28. The first phase of a \$1.8 million renovation of the dam 6 miles uphill from Kathryn was supposed to have been completed months ago to protect the town from flooding. But officials said a Minnesota company hired to do the work had not done anything since December. Source:

<http://www.therepublic.com/view/story/402f76eaf4184d8f8ccc1e0d366f1f70/ND--Damaged-Dam-Repairs/>

Army Corps builds temporary levees along the Red River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District, and its contractors began building temporary emergency levees this week in Oxbow, North Dakota., and Dwight, North Dakota. The week of March 21, the Corps of Engineers began building temporary emergency levees in Moorhead, Minnesota, and Oakport, Minnesota. The Corps is working closely with all the agencies involved to prepare for and respond to Red River flooding, and anticipates building more emergency levees in a number of Minnesota and North Dakota communities along the Sheyenne and Red rivers in the days to come. While there are inherent risks associated with all levee systems, emergency levees constructed during a flood fight are not engineered structures and are intended to be temporary. Local officials should still have evacuation plans in place in the event of an emergency. Under Public Law 84-99, the Corps may provide assistance to communities to save human life, prevent immediate human suffering or mitigate public property damage. Emergency assistance will be undertaken only to supplement state and local efforts. An imminent threat of unusual flooding must exist and a state must request Corps' assistance. Both North Dakota and Minnesota have requested Corps' assistance. Source:

<http://www.valleynewslive.com/Global/story.asp?S=14350028>

Corps outlines changes in Red River diversion plan. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it needs formal approval from state and local officials in two states by April 11 to keep moving forward on a planned Red River diversion around Fargo, North Dakota, and neighboring Moorhead, Minnesota. The Corps March 30 outlined recent changes to the project, that was originally estimated to cost \$1.25 billion and has grown to \$1.7 billion. The new plan calls for homes in several communities south of Fargo to be moved or demolished. The original design for the project was changed after Corps officials discovered impacts for downstream communities of the north-flowing river were greater than first anticipated. Fargo-Moorhead area residents are preparing for a third straight major flood. Millions of sandbags are scheduled to be delivered in the next several days. Source:

<http://www.kttc.com/Global/story.asp?S=14349988>

Enforcing mandatory evacuation order would strain police resources, chief says. If Fargo, North Dakota issues a mandatory evacuation during this year's flood, resources might not be available to actually enforce the order, the police chief said March 28. "We are not going to force people at gunpoint to leave a particular area," he said. "We don't have the resources to follow that type of process." Ignoring an evacuation order puts residents at risk because officers may not be able to reach them later on, the chief said. A mandatory evacuation is a warning an imminent threat to life and property exists, and residents must evacuate in accordance with local officials, states a flood evacuation policy being reviewed by the city of Fargo. Mandatory evacuations are for threats anticipated from 0 to 6 hours after they are issued. Notification would be circulated door-to-door, through the CodeRed system and by media outlets. Evacuations — voluntary or mandatory — could be citywide or include only small neighborhoods under threat of flooding, the police chief said. City leaders are working through who should make a call to evacuate under Fargo's state of emergency ordinance. The city commission is expected to continue its month-long discussion of an amended version of the statute. Source: <http://www.inforum.com/event/article/id/314017/group/News/>

Cold weather won't delay clay levees. The cold temperatures may have temporarily put the brakes on building sandbag flood dikes in Fargo, North Dakota, but it has not stopped construction of clay levees. Since March 25, a contractor hired by the city has been working to raise a nearly mile-long levee to protect Stockman's subdivision, north of Hector Airport. Work on the levee should be wrapped up March 29. Source: <http://www.kfgo.com/fm-headline-news.php?ID=0000003581>

REGIONAL

(Minnesota) Minn. health department confirms 14th case of measles. The Minnesota Department of Health has confirmed a 14th measles case. Thirteen of the individuals are linked to an infection that originated in Africa that occurred when a Minnesota Somali child visited Kenya and then returned to Minnesota. The other measles case was contracted in Florida. So far, there have been eight hospitalizations and no deaths. Most of the cases have occurred in unvaccinated people, including some who were too young to receive the vaccine. Source: <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/03/30/minnesota-measles-14/>

(Wyoming) Pest control officials expect southeast Wyoming grasshopper infestation this summer. Laramie County Weed and Pest Control District officials in Wyoming are preparing to sign up landowners for aerial spraying with an insecticide to kill the grasshoppers while they are in the early stage of development, Casper Star-Tribune reported March 26. Grasshoppers in 2011 are expected to hit the southeast corner of the state. A rancher in Sheridan County took preventative measures after the 2009 infestation in which there were 65 grasshoppers per square yard at his house and higher concentrations in the fields. "They pretty much wiped us out," he said, "We had pasture we weren't able to use." The rancher and two neighbors designated a 60,000-acre block to be sprayed in 2010. The last big grasshopper outbreak in Wyoming was in 1984. Each county handles its own grasshopper control plan, while the federal government does the same on federal lands in the state. Grasshoppers have been known to chew off the fiber coating on window screens and to snack on evergreens, sagebrush, and yucca plant leaves. Source: http://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/wyoming/article_ea1c3f6f-a719-5b47-a7c1-0b346440d0ea.html

NATIONAL

Security expert warns of targeted attacks on senior execs. Attackers could use the practice of “vanity” searches to carry out targeted attacks, according to security experts. The chief executive of Trusteer suggested attackers could infect PCs belonging to high-level executives by lacing pages with search terms associated with the target’s name or company. He explained that, to keep tabs on news coverage, many executives have Google Alert settings that comb the engine for mentions of their own name, a practice known as a “vanity search.” An attacker could craft a malicious page with an exploit tool or attack code. The malicious page could then be loaded with words associated with the individual or company being targeted. The attack page would then appear on the target’s vanity searches, possibly luring an executive or other high-value target into a malware attack. Trusteer’s CEO said the potency of the attacks could be increased by the use of zero-day flaws in combination with personal information gathered through services such as LinkedIn. Source:

<http://www.v3.co.uk/v3-uk/news/2036904/security-expert-warns-targeted-attacks-senior-execs>

INTERNATIONAL

Italian officer injured in parcel bomb explosion. An Italian military officer was injured March 31 when a letter-bomb apparently sent by anarchists exploded in an army barracks in the Tuscan port of Livorno, authorities said. The “Informal Anarchist Federation” (FAI) was written on the envelope of the letter which exploded when opened, according to Italian intelligence services. The FAI was behind the sending of booby-trapped parcels to the Swiss, Chilean, and Greek embassies in Rome at Christmas. “The military officer was in his office when he opened a package which exploded and injured his face and hands. He was immediately given first aid and taken to hospital,” the defense ministry statement said. the victim was later flown by helicopter to A hospital in Florence. He was reported to have lost three fingers and suffered severe eye damage that could leave him partially or wholly blind. Italian intelligence services drew a parallel between the attack and similar bombings in Greece and Switzerland the same day, blaming the violence on anarchists. Source:

http://www.straitstimes.com/BreakingNews/World/Story/STIStory_651781.html

Two hurt as letter bomb explodes in office of Swiss nuclear agency. Two people were injured when a letter bomb exploded at an office belonging to a nuclear energy body in Switzerland, March 31. Both victims suffered superficial injuries when the device detonated in Swissnuclear office in the northern town of Olten, Agence France-Presse (AFP) reports. “At about 8.15 a.m., while opening the letter, it exploded,” a police spokesman for the canton of Solothurn told AFP. No-one has claimed responsibility for the attack, the agency said. Swissnuclear is a lobby group representing a number of power companies in the country, the BBC said. The company is a consortium of national power companies Axpo, Alpiq, and BKW, AP said. Six people had been working in the sixth-floor office apparently targeted by the blast, the BBC said, adding that the building also houses a branch of UBS bank. The explosion occurred as about 30 Greenpeace protesters staged a protest outside the headquarters of Alpiq, less than a mile away, AFP said. The group immediately halted its demonstration and denied any link to the letter bomb. “We distance ourselves with the greatest firmness from this explosion. Greenpeace has nothing to do with this attack,” a Greenpeace spokesperson told AFP. Earlier in March Switzerland suspended approvals for three nuclear power stations pending a safety review in the wake of the atomic crisis at Japan’s disaster-hit Fukushima

power station. Source:

<http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/news/regions/europe/110331/switzerland-nuclear-bomb-blast>

BANKING AND FINANCE INDUSTRY

U.S. spy agency is said to probe hacker attack on Nasdaq. The National Security Agency (NSA) has joined a probe of the October 2010 cyber attack on Nasdaq OMX Group Inc. amid evidence the intrusion by hackers was more severe than first disclosed, according to people familiar with the investigation. The involvement of NSA, may help the initial investigators — Nasdaq and the FBI — determine more easily who attacked and what was taken. It may also show the attack endangered the security of the nation's financial infrastructure. "By bringing in the NSA, that means they think they're either dealing with a state-sponsored attack or it's an extraordinarily capable criminal organization," said the former head of U.S. counterintelligence. NSA's most important contribution to the probe may be its ability to unscramble encrypted messages hackers use to extract data, said a former NSA analyst and chief security strategist at Technodyne LLC. The probe of the attack on the second biggest U.S. stock exchange operator, disclosed in February, is also being assisted by foreign intelligence agencies, said one of the people involved in the investigation. Investigators have yet to determine which Nasdaq systems were breached and why, and it may take months for them to finish their work, two of the people familiar with the matter said. Disclosure of the attack prompted the U.S. House Financial Services Committee in February to begin a review of the safety of the country's financial infrastructure, according to the committee's chairman. Source:

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-30/u-s-spy-agency-said-to-focus-its-decrypting-skills-on-nasdaq-cyber-attack.html>

Pay-at-the-pump scams targeted. As pay-at-the-pump skimming scams grow in the United States and Europe, police in Camarillo, California, have taken the unique step of enlisting help from civilians to fight skimming crimes. Known as the citizen patrol unit, the group of 30 civilian volunteers has been tasked with monitoring pay-at-the pump terminals throughout Camarillo, looking for signs of tampered terminals or the installation of illegal skimming devices. It is not the first time a community has enlisted help outside law enforcement to curb card skimming at gas pumps. In July 2010, the Arizona governor directed the state department of weights and measures to increase gas pump inspections. Card-skimming attacks at pumps in Utah and Florida captured headlines in 2010. So far in 2011, new attacks have cropped up in Arizona and Europe. And late the week of March 21, police in Ormond Beach, Florida, warned locals that skimming devices at stations along U.S. 1 could have been hitting cards for more than a month. Source:

http://www.bankinfosecurity.com/articles.php?art_id=3481

CHEMICAL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SECTOR

U.N. suggests pesticides, chemicals for watch list. The United Nations (U.N.) has suggested three pesticides and three industrial chemicals be put on a trade "watch list" because they can threaten human health and the environment, the U.N.'s Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said April 1. U.N. chemical experts have proposed pesticides endosulfan and azinphos methyl, and the hazardous pesticide formulation Gramoxone Super be added to the Rotterdam Convention's Prior Informed Consent procedure, the FAO said. The U.N.-backed Convention prevents unwanted trade in chemicals included in the legally binding procedure. It does not introduce bans, but helps members make

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informed decisions on trade in hazardous chemicals. The FAO said chemical experts had recommended three industrial chemicals be added to the list — perfluorooctane sulfonate, its salts and precursors; pentaBDE commercial mixtures; and octaBDE commercial mixtures. It said they based recommendations on regulatory actions taken by the European Union, Japan, Canada, and other countries to ban or restrict the use of chemicals that pose an unacceptable risk to human health and the environment. The Rotterdam Convention is due to meet in June. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/04/01/us-pesticides-un-idUSTRE7303IT20110401>

COMMERCIAL FACILITIES

(New York) Feds probe NYC fire for possible domestic terror link. An arson fire in Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York, may have been the work of an anarchist with links to the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), law enforcement officials said March 29. The Brooklyn Free Store was torched March 19 after an arsonist had tried to burn it down on two previous occasions, investigators said. The FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force has been called in to assist New York City Fire Department (FDNY) arson investigators because of the possible ALF connections, officials briefed on the case said. ALF is considered a violent extremist group by the FBI and U.S. Justice Department. ALF followers have engaged in illegal actions and sabotage in pursuit of "animal liberation." ALF activists in the past have tried to forcibly remove animals from research laboratories, even conducting sabotage and arson. Law enforcement officials would not say why the Brooklyn Free Store may have been targeted by someone with alleged links to ALF. Nobody was hurt in the three separate arson attempts along Walworth Street and DeKalb Avenue. No suspect has been arrested. Source:

<http://www.nbcnewyork.com/news/local/FBI-JTTF-Investigates-Brooklyn-Arson-For-Possible-ALF-118867534.html>

(California) Pipe bomb explosion injures one near San Francisco. A pipe bomb hidden inside a newspaper exploded when an elderly Vacaville, California man picked up the paper near his doorstep the morning of March 27, a spokesman for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) said. The man, who suffered "certainly serious, but not life-threatening injuries," was airlifted to a hospital, a Vacaville city spokesman said. Residents of a dozen neighboring homes were evacuated for several hours, but they were allowed to return home later in the afternoon of March 27, the city spokesman said. Investigators were questioning neighbors and relatives to determine why the man may have been targeted by a bomb. It was not immediately known if the victim was targeted. "Neighbors are telling authorities that an unidentified man in camouflage was seen in the neighborhood last night (March 26)," the ATF spokesman said. A bomb squad from Travis Air Force Base and federal investigators combed the neighborhood with explosives-sniffing dogs in the Brown's Valley section of the town, but they found no other explosive devices, the city spokesman said. Source:

<http://www.kpsplocal2.com/Content/Headlines/story/Pipe-Bomb-Explosion-Injures-1-Near-San-Francisco/CcDYz1O68Uaxisjaye-rHw.csp>

COMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Responding to network attack, TelePacific agents reach out to customers via Twitter, Facebook. The power of social media was on display the week of March 21 when TelePacific Communications, a Los Angeles, California-based phone service provider suffered an external network attack that left most of its "SmartVoice" customers without the ability to make and receive calls. A TelePacific

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spokeswoman credited TelePacific's agents for responding to customers on the company's Facebook and Twitter pages while also keeping their customers apprised of the situation via e-mail. "Since the outage they [agents] have been instrumental in minimizing customer concerns by proactively addressing our mutual customers," the spokeswoman said. Individuals who have addressed customer issues have included agent managers and directors as well as TelePacific's CEO, and the company's channel chief, the spokeswoman said. "We proactively reached out to all of our top agents along with many subs to address concerns head on and again have been truly thankful for their positive responses to TelePacific on the heels of the attack," she said. In a letter sent to SmartVoice customers, the TelePacific CEO said the "unprecedented attack" on the network occurred March 24 and March 25. The company has engaged the FBI's cyber attack division to attempt to identify the source of the attack, he said. Source:

<http://www.channelpartnersonline.com/news/2011/03/responding-to-network-attack-telepacific-agents-r.aspx>

CRITICAL MANUFACTURING

Jetta recall: Honk horn, stall car. Volkswagen of America announced a voluntary safety recall March 28 of about 71,043 Jettas. A wiring issue could cause the car to turn off if the horn is activated, the company said. The cars — manufactured from March 2010 through March 2011 — are affected by an issue caused by a fault in the wiring layout, according to Volkswagen. The electrical issue resides in the anti-theft alarm system and horn, which in rare circumstances can short-circuit the converter box that supplies power to the engine, among other components. No related accidents or injuries have been reported, the automaker said. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-20048048-1.html

Mowers recalled by The Toro Company due to injury hazard. The Toro Company, of Bloomington, Minnesota, issued a recall March 30 for about 3,700 Toro Z Master ZRT mowers. Mowers with the optional deluxe seat have an operator presence switch built into the seat that may activate the mower when the operator vacates the seat, posing an injury hazard from the blade to the operator and anyone in the vicinity of the mower. Toro has received one report of a foot laceration. The mowers were sold at Toro dealers in the United States from September 2005 through January 2011. Source: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml11/11731.html>

Toyota restricts parts orders; Honda cuts output. Shortages of auto parts from Japan are hitting North American operations at Honda and Toyota. Toyota Motor Corp. said March 29 it wants its U.S. car dealers to stop ordering more than 200 replacement parts made in Japan because it is worried about running out of them. Honda Motor Co. said it will temporarily cut production at its North American auto factories starting March 30 due to shortages. The shortages are the result of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated Japan and its huge auto industry. The quake damaged many parts supply companies that make key components for cars and trucks in the United States and other countries. Industry analysts expect many automakers to run into shortages until production returns to normal. No one is certain when that will be. Already, several automakers have been forced to cut production. Chrysler Group LLC, Ford Motor Co. and others have stopped taking orders for certain paint colors because a specialized pigment factory has not been able to come back on line. Source: <http://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Toyota-restricts-parts-orders-Honda-cuts-output-1313360.php>

With shortages looming at car dealerships and factories, the global auto crisis deepens. The auto industry disruptions triggered by Japan's earthquake and tsunami are about to get worse. More than 2 weeks since the natural disaster, inventories of crucial car supplies are dwindling fast as Japanese factories that make them struggle to restart. Because parts and supplies are shipped by slow-moving boats, the real drop-off has yet to be felt by factories in the United States, Europe, and Asia. That will come by the middle of April. Much of Japan's auto industry — the second largest supplier of cars in the world — remains idle. Few plants were seriously damaged by the quake, but with supplies of water and electricity fleeting, no one can say when factories will resume production. Some auto analysts said it could be as late as this summer. Japanese carmakers, who have shut most of their domestic plants, are warning that some of their overseas factories will stop running, too, in an effort to conserve supplies. Source:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/canadianpress/article/ALeqM5j3K7aNQSCCesJokeXTdYS5zwXh6w?docId=6383243>

Carbide Industries blast puts supply in question. North American steelmakers were scrambling to find sources of calcium carbide in the wake of a fatal explosion at Carbide Industries LLC in Louisville, Kentucky. The March 21 blast killed two employees and injured two others. The company continues to investigate the cause of the explosion, which occurred in a furnace producing calcium carbide, used by steelmakers as a desulfurizing agent. The explosion leaves Carbide Industries unable to supply its customers. With only one other U.S. producer of calcium carbide — Central Carbide LLC, of Pryor, Oklahoma, is the other — North American steel producers are left short of supply. Source:

<http://www.metalbulletin.com/Article/2795336/AMM-Carbide-Industries-blast-puts-supply-in-question.html>

DEFENSE/ INDUSTRY BASE SECTOR

Man accused of selling U.S. spy plane on Ebay. A man was arrested and charged with illegally selling an unmanned U.S. spy plane known as the Raven, the U.S. attorney's office in Tampa, Florida, said March 28. A grand jury indicted the man, 47, of Manila, Philippines, March 10 on charges he sold the Raven to undercover federal agents on Ebay. He faces up to 20 years in federal prison if convicted of smuggling and violating the Arms Export Control Act. The man was arrested when he came to Los Angeles, California, in February. The Raven is a 4-pound plane equipped with three cameras that U.S. troops use for battlefield surveillance. It can be taken apart and carried by troops and then reassembled for use. According to the U.S. attorney's office, agents with the Homeland Security Department found out last May the man was offering a Raven for sale on Ebay for \$13,000. They exchanged messages with him over several months, and he sent the Raven to them in separate packages in exchange for the money, officials said. Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/28/us-crime-spyplane-idUSTRE72R72P20110328>

(California) All F-35s cleared to resume flight tests. Faulty maintenance procedures were found to have caused the March 9 in-flight failure of the engine generators aboard an F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft, the program office said March 25. Those procedures have now been revised, and the entire fleet of F-35s has been cleared to resume flight operations. The problem was revealed when a U.S. Air Force F-35A test aircraft, numbered AF-4, suffered a failure of the generators during a test flight from Edwards Air Force Base in California. In flight, the generator provides the aircraft's primary

electrical power. The configuration of the generator on AF-4 and other, newer F-35s was different than the original installation on the first test aircraft, and the problem was traced to the newer, or alternate, configuration. Test aircraft with the earlier configuration were cleared March 14 to resume flight operations. Three other test aircraft remained grounded, along with the first two low-rate initial production F-35As, while the investigation continued. According to the program office, the investigation revealed the maintenance procedure for the alternate engine starter/generator configuration allowed excess oil in the generator's lubrication system. Even though previous procedures allowed a small amount of extra oil in the generator following servicing, extra oil churning inside a narrow air gap within the unit could cause internal temperatures to increase, the program office said. The high temperatures led to the generator failures. Source:

<http://www.defensenews.com/story.php?i=6063313&c=AME&s=TOP>

EMERGENCY SERVICES

(Wisconsin) Budget cuts police network. Wisconsin governor's budget plan denies funding for a high-tech file-sharing network that allows officers to transmit documents electronically and detect criminals' movements across jurisdictions. The lack of money could cripple the Wisconsin Justice Information System. Contributions to the network have lagged, but the move could force dozens of police departments to revert to a pen-and-paper system and close down inter-agency connections the system's proponents said are crucial for resource-strapped investigators trying to connect the dots in a post-September 11 world. The network was envisioned as a Google for cops. It enables officers to transmit citations to prosecutors and judges from squad car laptops, saving the time it would take to drive to the county seat and hand deliver the paperwork at the courthouse. The system also bridges law enforcement agencies' databases, enabling police across Wisconsin to access millions of internal files from other agencies. Documents include court records, arrest records, incident reports, and prosecutors' confidential files. The network has yet to really catch on with police. All but two of Wisconsin's district attorneys make their files accessible, but only about 170 of the 650 or so law enforcement agencies have opened up theirs. Source:

http://www.beloitdailynews.com/articles/2011/03/28/news/wisconsin_news/wis2800.txt

Unmanned aircraft offer new tools for the emergency response arsenal. Unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) are changing the aerospace industry. No longer solely for military use, UASs have increasing potential for civilian and commercial applications, particularly with regard to emergency response and relief efforts. They can be used for environmental research, law enforcement, border surveillance, search and rescue operations, damage assessment, and recovery efforts following natural disasters. Ideal for situations where it is too dangerous or difficult to use manned aircraft, unmanned aircraft often cost less and can stay in the air longer — as long as 4 days without refueling. Already in use in some states, UASs successfully performed search and rescue missions in Louisiana and Texas during the 2008 hurricanes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration uses them to hunt down hurricanes and communicate data to the National Hurricane Center in Florida. Police departments in Houston and Miami have tested law enforcement programs using the systems. In California, NASA scientists developed an unmanned aircraft, called the Ikhana, which has proven useful in battling wildfires. Special heat sensors installed in the Ikhana map fire locations by temperature and transmit hot spot information to multiagency coordination centers and firefighters

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on the ground. Source: <http://www.emergencymgmt.com/disaster/Unmanned-Aircraft-Emergency-Response-032411.html>

(Iowa) State inaction hurts emergency radio upgrade effort. Iowa police, firefighters, ambulances, hospitals, dispatch centers, and others will lose their ability to communicate via two-way radio at the end of 2012 if they do not make upgrades required by the federal government. Many small local agencies cannot cover this expense, but attempts to address the issue are stalled. Without the upgrades, as of January 1, 2013, dispatch centers would still get 911 calls, but the emergency workers would no longer have working radios to receive details about the calls or to talk with each other once they reach the scene. The mandate “may result in approximately one-fourth of the state being without radio coverage unless some corrective steps are taken to ensure continued coverage,” according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Legislative Services Agency. Local emergency agencies that fail to upgrade face fines up to \$10,000 per day, cancellation of their Federal Communications Commission license to operate radios, and loss of communications capabilities, the analysis said.

Source:

http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20110326/NEWS10/103260332/1094/SPORTS0206/?ody_ssey=nav|head

ENERGY

Nothing Significant to Report

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

(Maryland) Salmonella outbreak traced to pancake breakfast. Eight people are confirmed to have Salmonella infections in an outbreak traced to a March 5 pancake breakfast in Thurmont, Maryland. Source of the illnesses is said to be contaminated sausage. The implicated sausage was purchased at a 4-H “Country Butchering” event held January 27, according to the Frederick County Health Department. All of those sickened had attended the fundraising breakfast at the Trinity United Church of Christ and became ill a few days later. On March 11, Frederick Memorial Hospital staff received lab results indicating the case patients tested positive for Salmonella infantis. Although there was no sausage left over from the breakfast to test, samples of the sausage sold at the local butchering event were analyzed by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and found to contain the outbreak strain of Salmonella, the local health department said. State and local health departments are working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to determine how the sausage became contaminated. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/04/eight-ill-from-salmonella-tainted-sausage/>

(Missouri) Thousands of turkeys will be euthanized in Polk County, officials investigating avian influenza. About 14,000 to 15,000 young turkeys will be euthanized after the Missouri Department of Agriculture found a possible case of Avian Influenza in Polk County. Cargill’s director of communications said routine testing discovered antibodies in the turkey’s immune systems tested positive for Avian Influenza H7N3. The owner of the farm said he was instructed by Cargill not to speak with the media. Cargill owns the turkeys. The farm owner manages the birds and grows them

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to maturity. Neighbors said their chickens will be tested next. Because young turkeys were exposed, they will be euthanized because it is protocol. "We do not want those animals around for several months to potentially become ill or potentially spread influenza," the director said. All flocks within a 6-mile radius will be tested. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service is involved in the investigation. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory is providing virus isolation and confirmatory testing. The Missouri Department of Agriculture said this type of avian influenza rarely affects humans. They said it is low pathogenic, which means it is not likely to spread. Source: <http://www.kspr.com/news/local/kspr-thousands-of-turkeys-will-be-euthanized-in-polk-county-officials-investigating-avian-influenza-20110331,0,7789252.story>

(Alabama) Frozen chicken fillet recall. Wayne Farms, of Decatur, Alabama, recalled approximately 53,210 pounds of frozen, breaded, fully cooked Italian-style chicken breast fillet products because they contain an undeclared allergen, egg, which is not noted on the label. The products subject to recall include: 10-pound cases of: Thumann's "The Deli Best" Fully Cook Breaded Italian Style Chicken Breast Fillet W/Rib Meat with each case containing bulk packed 7-oz. chicken fillets; Dutch Quality House Dist. Breaded Fully Cooked Italian Style Chicken Breast Fillet W/Rib Meat with each case containing bulk packed 7-oz. chicken fillets; and non-branded Breaded Fully Cooked Italian Style Chicken Breast Fillet With Rib Meat with each case containing bulk packed 7-oz. chicken fillets. The products were produced between August 3, 2010 and November 13, 2010 and were shipped for foodservice use nationwide and to distribution centers in New Jersey and Massachusetts. Source: http://www.nbc15.com/health/headlines/Frozen_Chicken_Fillet_Recall_119028869.html

(California) Pizza recalled for undeclared allergen. About 131,000 pounds of pizza products shipped to Trader Joe's stores were voluntarily recalled because of a failure to declare wheat, a known allergen, on the finished product label, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) said March 29. Frozen packages of Trader Joe's Pizza Al Pollo Asado produced between January 27 and March 27 of 2011 are included in the recall. The health risk associated with this recall is low, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) explained. If the product is consumed, there is only a remote probability of adverse health consequences. Trader Joe's, however, warned "people who have an allergy or severe sensitivity to wheat may run the risk of allergic reaction if they consume this product." The company has removed the product from store shelves. During a routine inspection, a FSIS inspector discovered the omission. California-based Completely Fresh Foods Inc., which makes the pizza products, has not received any reports of adverse effects, USDA said. The pizzas were shipped to Trader Joe's stores nationwide. Source: <http://wtaq.com/news/articles/2011/mar/30/pizza-recalled-for-undeclared-allergen/>

EPA boosts radiation monitoring after low levels found in milk. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is increasing its nationwide monitoring of radiation as two states reported very low levels of radiation in milk. The agency said March 30 it is boosting its monitoring of radiation in milk, precipitation, drinking water, and other outlets. It already tracks radiation in those potential exposure routes through an existing network of stations across the country. Results from screening samples of milk taken in the past week in Spokane, Washington, and in San Luis Obispo County, California, detected radioactive iodine at a level 5,000 times lower than the limit set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, officials said. The I-131 isotope has a very short half-life of about 8 days, EPA said, so the level detected in milk and milk products is expected to drop relatively quickly. The governor of Washington said tests confirmed the milk is safe to drink. Similarly, the California Department of

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Public Health reassured residents the levels do not pose a threat. At least 15 states have reported radioisotopes from Japan's crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant in air or water or both. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/03/31/radiation.us/index.html?hpt=T2>

Cantaloupe outbreak total now 13 in five states. A Colorado resident is the 13th person to be confirmed infected with an outbreak strain of Salmonella Panama tied to cantaloupe, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported March 29. In its investigation update, the CDC said 12 of the 13 who are infected reported eating cantaloupe in the week before they became ill. Eleven of those 12 had eaten cantaloupes purchased between March 10 and March 21 at 8 different locations of "a national warehouse club" in Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. The warehouse club is still not named in the report, but Costco has published the recall information on its customer service product notes. Del Monte Fresh recalled 4,992 cartons of cantaloupes March 22, after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration notified the Coral Gables, Florida-based company of the outbreak. Product traceback information indicated the cantaloupes were from a single grower in Guatemala. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/cantaloupe-outbreak-tally-now-at-13/>

(Rhode Island; Massachusetts) One dead, 38 ill from Salmonella linked to pastry. One man died and there are 38 other cases of suspected Salmonella infections in the Rhode Island outbreak linked to Italian pastries from a Johnston bakery. The Rhode Island Health Department said March 29 the man who died March 23 was a Providence County resident in his 80s. He tested positive for the outbreak strain of Salmonella. Twenty-four of those sickened were hospitalized, so far 21 are lab-confirmed Salmonella cases. Most are Rhode Island residents; one lives in Massachusetts. Health officials have said all of those affected appeared to have eaten zeppole made by DeFusco's Bakery. The pastries were also sold to other bakeries and caterers, and served at several locations, including catered events at senior centers and a church. Source: <http://www.foodsafetynews.com/2011/03/rhode-island-man-dies-from-salmonella/>

(Louisiana) Louisiana is front line in fight for prickly pear. Cactoblastis cactorum, a tan-colored moth from Argentina, has been moving steadily across the Gulf Coast for the past decade and officials believe it will spread to Texas and pose a major threat to its prickly pear cacti, unless it is stopped. The moth lays its eggs in the cacti, which its larvae then infest. They eat through the pads of the fruit-bearing plant worth hundreds of millions of dollars because of its use in Mexican cooking. Cactus Canal, Louisiana, now marks the western boundary of the moth's new habitat, and federal workers hope to stop it before it gets to Texas and the population explodes with an abundant food supply. The United States and Mexico are contributing about \$500,000 per year to kill the moths and save the prickly pear. California's harvest, the biggest in the United States, is worth \$24 million per year. The moth is seen as a major threat. It arrived at the tip of Florida in the 1980s from the Caribbean and traveled up to the Florida Panhandle and across Alabama and Mississippi. In 2009, it was spotted in Louisiana. To stop the spread, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has been running crews and scientists out to patches of infested marsh in Louisiana for about a year to scorch prickly pear down to the roots. Source: <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/03/28/ap/national/main20047769.shtml>

Corps admits electric barrier won't stop all Asian carp. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has admitted its electric fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal will not repel all Asian carp,

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the Pierce County Herald reported March 26. The barrier is currently operating at about half its potential strength because of the threat it would pose to canal barges carrying flammable materials. The Corps said the barrier would be effective for fish as small as 5.4 inches in length, but research suggests it would not stop smaller fish. The Corps said that is not necessary right now. The nearest carp are said to be over 100-miles away, and there could be safety problems if the voltage is raised without a real need to do so. Wisconsin and other states are trying to keep the bloated carp out of the Great Lakes because it eats up the food that native fish rely upon. Wisconsin officials said they are worried the carp could hurt the \$7 billion Great Lakes fishing industry. Source:

<http://www.piercecountyherald.com/event/article/id/34399/>

(Rhode Island) Salmonella outbreak linked to zeppole from DeFusco's Bakery in Johnston. The Rhode Island Department of Health investigation into an outbreak of salmonella linked to a bad batch of zeppoles that has sickened 25 people has found the pastries were sold from more sources than had been originally reported. Health officials said March 27 all 25 of those who fell ill directly, or indirectly, got their zeppoles from DeFusco's Bakery in Johnston. Thirteen of the 25 tested positive for salmonella poisoning, and 10 were hospitalized after they experienced nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. A health department spokeswoman said the agency determined the bakery stored zeppole shells in used egg crates, possibly exposing the shells to raw egg residue. She said health officials learned American Bakery Supplies, a distributor in West Warwick, bought zeppoles from DeFusco's Bakery and then distributed them to locations in West Warwick and Coventry. Meal Works served the zeppoles March 17 and 18 at West Warwick Manor Senior Center, St. John and Paul Church in Coventry, Sparrow Point, a senior facility in Warwick, and Crescent Park Manor, in the Riverside neighborhood of East Providence. The spokeswoman said the zeppoles were sold from all of DeFusco's bakeries. They were also served at Colvitto's Bistro in Narragansett, Sal's Bakery in Providence, and Focaccia World in Johnston. From March 16 to 20, all five Crugnale Bakery locations in Providence, East Providence, North Providence, Cranston, and Cumberland sold DeFusco zeppoles, she said. Source: http://www.projo.com/ri/eastprovidence/content/ZEPPOLE_SALMONELLA_03-28-11_F3N7RUN_v10.1862679.html

GOVERNMENT SECTOR (INCLUDING SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES)

(California) Alert issued after security incident on Camp Pendleton. California's Camp Pendleton, one of the nation's largest military bases, is reportedly under tighter security after three Middle Eastern men tried to enter without proper authorization. The men — a 40-year-old Afghani man, a 41-year-old Iranian man, and a 27-year-old Iranian man — attempted to get into Camp Pendleton the weekend of March 26 and 27 under what was considered suspicious circumstances. Base officials March 30 said there was no threat, but others on the base said security was increased. According to a Be On the Lookout alert issued to high-ranking Camp Pendleton officials, someone reported hearing hateful comments and terrorist threats March 26 from three men at a gas station in Oceanside. Investigators at Camp Pendleton said the men asked the attendant for directions to the base before they left the gas station. According to the alert, shortly after midnight March 27, a rented silver Toyota Corolla attempted to enter the base through the main gate. As it was being searched, two suspects drove up in a black Mercedes, but were told to wait. Instead, they continued past the gate and onto the base. Following a short pursuit, the Mercedes was stopped and searched. No weapons

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or contraband were found in the Mercedes, but base security noticed the air bag in the steering wheel of the Mercedes had been pulled out and re-attached with duct tape and had wires hanging free, the alert said. A criminal background check on the trio conducted by DHS found no “derogatory records” for the men. Additionally, the U.S. Border Patrol said the immigration statuses for the three men were confirmed, and they did not appear on any terrorist watch databases. Source:

<http://www.10news.com/news/27377448/detail.html>

US develops ‘panic button’ for democracy activists. Some day soon, when pro-democracy campaigners have their cellphones confiscated by police, they will be able to hit the “panic button” — a special app that will both wipe out the phone’s address book and emit emergency alerts to other activists. The panic button is one of the new technologies the U.S. State Department is promoting to equip pro-democracy activists in countries ranging from the Middle East to China with the tools to fight back against repressive governments. “We’ve been trying to keep below the radar on this, because a lot of the people we are working with are operating in very sensitive environments,” said the Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Human Rights and Labor. The U.S. technology initiative is part of the Secretary of State’s push to expand Internet freedoms, pointing out the crucial role that on-line resources such as Twitter and Facebook have had in fueling pro-democracy movements in Iran, Egypt, Tunisia, and elsewhere. The United States had budgeted some \$50 million since 2008 to promote new technologies for social activists, focusing both on “circumvention” technology to help them work around government-imposed firewalls and on new strategies to protect their own communications and data from government intrusion. Source: <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2011/03/25/rights-usa-technology-idUKN2527265620110325>

(New Jersey) Students break into high school’s computer system. The Montville Township School District in New Jersey is investigating a breach of the high school’s computer system that took place the week of March 21. According to the superintendent, the high school’s student information system was broken into. The district is looking into the possibility of records being tampered with. In a letter to the district’s parents, the superintendent said the breach had been remedied and that students had committed the breach. “The police were notified and we are quite certain that the students responsible have been identified,” he said. Source:

<http://montville.patch.com/articles/students-breach-high-schools-computer-system>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Phishing scam masquerades as Adobe upgrade. Phishers are using spam that tries to trick people by offering an upgrade to Adobe Acrobat. Detailed by security provider Cloudmark, this type of advertising spam e-mails users a notice to upgrade to the new Adobe Acrobat Reader. Those who click on the link are directed to a Web site touting the benefits of the software. The Web site domain name contains the word “adobe,” said Cloudmark, as an attempt to give it some kind of legitimacy. However, it is just another malicious site designed to capture personal information. Once on the phony site, the user is prompted to provide contact details and credit card information, which then fall into the hands of cybercrooks. Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-20049199-83.html

Mass injection attack hits a million websites. More than 1 million URLs were compromised by a cyberattack that has suddenly ramped up in the last 24 hours to become one of the biggest mass-injection attacks ever seen. The trojan, dubbed Lizamoon, redirects Web surfers to a fake antivirus Web site via malicious JavaScript code injected into Web pages. Discovered March 30, it has escalated rapidly. Around half the victims appear to be located in the United States. A number of iTunes pages appear to be affected, although the way these pages are set up prevents the code from automatically executing on users' computers. Security firm Websense said it has detected a number of other injected URLs on top of the original Lizamoon, meaning the attack is even bigger than first thought. "The Rogue AV software that is installed is called Windows Stability Center, and the file that is downloaded is currently detected by 13/43 anti-virus engines, according to VirusTotal," Websense said. The affected sites appear to be using Microsoft SQL Server 2003 and 2005; probably not because of a vulnerability in SQL Server itself, noted Websense, but because of weaknesses in the content management systems the sites are using. Source: <http://www.tgdaily.com/security-features/55124-mass-injection-attack-hits-a-million-websites>

Texas Instruments sees 6 month disruption at Japan plant. Texas Instruments (TI) anticipates between 4 and 6 months of disruption to its chip manufacturing operations in Japan following the massive earthquake March 11, IDG News Service reported March 30. The company's factory in Miho was closed by the quake and suffered damage to infrastructure and its production line. It was responsible for about 10 percent of the company's output by revenue in 2010, TI said in a statement. It was an important base for TI's DLP projector chip technology. Repairs to the infrastructure systems at the plant were completed the weekend of March 26 and 27, as water, gas, chemical, and air delivery have been restored, the company said. Work remains on the equipment at the plant, a portion of which has not been checked. TI said it expects initial production to resume in mid-April with full production achieved about 3 months after that. The plant will be back to full shipment capability in September, which translates to roughly a 6-month break in full shipment ability. Source: http://www.pcworld.idg.com.au/article/381538/texas_instruments_sees_6_month_disruption_japan_plant/

New variant of destructive ransomware identified. Security researchers from Kaspersky Lab have identified a new variant of a destructive ransomware program that encrypts personal files with an uncrackable algorithm. Ransomware applications block critical system functionality or lock access to important documents and ask for money to restore normal operations. While many ransomware programs can be cleaned from the system, others are uncrackable. This is the case of programs in the Gpcode ransomware family, which make use of the secure RSA public-key algorithm with an 1024-bit key. Once installed, these applications start encrypting files with predefined extensions, including documents and images, and post a warning message on the desktop advising users to read an instructions file that tells them to send money if they want the special encryption key. One of the changes in the new variant is criminals have switched to ukash or psc pre-paid cards as payment method and have raised the ransom from \$120 to \$125. There is little users can do to recover their files if they have been affected. Source: <http://news.softpedia.com/news/New-Variant-of-Destructive-Ransomware-Identified-191613.shtml>

Another zero-day exploit for SCADA systems. In addition to the 35 vulnerabilities and zero-day exploits in supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems reported at the beginning of the

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week of March 21, another vulnerability and another zero-day exploit have now been revealed. A security specialist has published code demonstrating a flaw in the Web-based virtualization software WebAccess from BroadWin. The code reportedly allows a flaw in WebAccess Network Service's RPC interface to be exploited allowing code to be injected. The researcher said he informed DHS's Industrial Control Systems Cyber Emergency Response Team (ICS-CERT) in advance, and the team contacted the vendor. ICS-CERT said the vendor was not able to confirm the flaw. The researcher later wrote the vendor denied the flaw's existence, so he published the exploit. In lieu of a patch, ICS-CERT recommended BroadWin users protect their systems with a firewall and use VPNs for remote access. ICS-CERT said it found a SQL injection vulnerability in the IntegraXor software from Malaysian vendor Ecava. The team said attackers can exploit the flaw to manipulate the database and execute arbitrary code. According to ICS-CERT, the software is used in 38 countries, including the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom, Poland, and Canada. Source: <http://www.h-online.com/security/news/item/Another-zero-day-exploit-for-SCADA-systems-1215450.html>

MySQL Web site falls victim to SQL injection attack. Oracle's MySQL.com customer Web site was compromised the weekend of March 26 and 27 by a pair of hackers who publicly posted usernames, and in some cases passwords, of the site's users. Taking credit for the hack were "TinKode" and "NeOh," who wrote the hack resulted from a SQL injection attack. The vulnerable domains were listed as www.mysql.com, www.mysql.fr, www.mysql.de, www.mysql.it and www-jp.mysql.com. According to a post on the Full Disclosure bug mailing list March 27, MySQL.com ran a variety of internal databases on an Apache Web server. The information posted included a raft of password hashes, some of which have now been cracked. Among the credentials in a dump of the information posted on Pastebin were passwords for a number of MySQL database users on the server, and the admin passwords for the corporate blogs of two former MySQL employees. Source: http://www.computerworld.com/s/article/9215249/MySQL_Web_site_falls_victim_to_SQL_injection_attack

NATIONAL MONUMENTS AND ICONS

(California) Avalanche danger is considerable in the Sierra. California ski areas in the Sierra March 26 reported another 4 feet of snow on top of the 50-foot snowfall they have received this season. The National Forest Service said avalanche danger is considerable, so natural and human-triggered avalanches are possible. Chains are required on I-80 from Placer County to the Donner Lake interchange. There are no chain controls on Highway 50, but there is a high wind advisory from Sacramento to the El Dorado County line. Source: <http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/state&id=8036553>

POSTAL AND SHIPPING

(Illinois) FBI investigating bomb threat letters from Chicago. The FBI is investigating letters postmarked in Chicago, Illinois, that claim al-Qaida has planted 160 nuclear bombs around the United States, according to WLS 7 March 31. The letter writer claimed to be Osama Bin Laden and said the bombs were left in schools, stadiums, churches, stores, financial institutions, and government buildings. The FBI said 20 letters were received by individuals — eight to local addresses, the rest around the country. A Chicago attorney and investigator received one. "The person who sent this to

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me took the time to hand write out the name of my detective agency and to address the letter to me. Quite honestly, that's the most frightening part of it. I was targeted for this letter," she said. The FBI told WLS 7 they do not consider the threats to be credible. But they are investigating to try to determine who is responsible and to make sure they are prosecuted. Source:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20110331/news/110339969/>

'Fake bomb' UPS flight from UK to Turkey investigated. An investigation has been launched into how a fake bomb was put on a cargo plane and flown from the United Kingdom (UK) to Turkey without being detected in early March. The UPS flight traveled to Istanbul with the package, reportedly containing a timer, wires, and a detonator. The UK Department for Transport said it was taking the matter "very seriously." A 26-year-old man, arrested on suspicion of making a bomb hoax, was detained March 23, but later bailed out of jail to return to a London police station in May. Police said the incident was not terrorist-related. A Turkish man had delivered the package, disguised as a wedding cake box, to a UPS office in Camden, according to ITV News. A department for transport spokesman said, "We have already begun an investigation which will look at all aspects of this incident, including UPS's procedures. The UK has one of the toughest security regimes for air cargo in the world. All security measures are subject to continuous review." A UPS spokeswoman said, "UPS is co-operating with the UK Department for Transport's investigation of the incident. UPS has a multiple-layered approach to ensure security." Details of which UK airport the flight took off from have not been released. Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-12902689>

(Missouri) Suspicious package at IRS for second day in a row. Firefighters were at the Internal Revenue Service Building in Kansas City, Missouri, for the second day in a row March 28, checking out a suspicious package. Crews responded March 27 to check out a powdery substance an employee found in the mail. It was determined the suspicious package received March 27 was not a threat, and the scene was also cleared March 26 with no report of any threat. Source:

[http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-another-suspicious-package-irs-](http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-another-suspicious-package-irs-2011328,0,4139247.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+wdaf-news+(FOX4KC+Local+News))

[2011328,0,4139247.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+wdaf-news+\(FOX4KC+Local+News\)](http://www.fox4kc.com/news/wdaf-another-suspicious-package-irs-2011328,0,4139247.story?track=rss&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed:+wdaf-news+(FOX4KC+Local+News))

PUBLIC HEALTH

Johnson and Johnson recalling more Tylenol from closed plant. Johnson and Johnson (J&J) said it was recalling more than 700,000 bottles or packages of Tylenol and other consumer medicines made at a now-closed plant, the latest in a litany of recalls by the company. The company's McNeil Consumer Healthcare unit recalled one lot of Tylenol 8 Hour Extended Release Caplets, or 34,056 bottles, from retailers, the company said. The company cited a musty odor that has prompted many other J&J recalls. The product was made at its Fort Washington, Pennsylvania plant before J&J closed the facility in April 2010. Separately, McNeil added 10 lots of other products, amounting to 717,696 bottles or packages, to a wholesale level recall it initiated January 14. Those products included various forms of pain reliever Tylenol, as well as allergy drug Benadryl and cough/cold medicine Sudafed. In that recall, McNeil said it was taking precautions after a review of records found instances where equipment cleaning procedures were insufficient or cleaning was not adequately documented, although it said it was unlikely to have hurt product quality. J&J has recalled more than 300 million bottles and packages of adult and children's consumer medicines in the past 15 months. No injuries

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have been linked to the recalls. Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/03/29/us-johnsonandjohnson-idUSTRE72S6DO20110329>

Study sees 42 disease clusters in 13 states. There are 42 so-called disease clusters in 13 U.S. states, showing incidence of numerous types of cancer, birth defects, and other chronic illnesses, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) reported March 28. A study by NRDC and the National Disease Clusters Alliance urges federal coordination and support to help confirm these clusters and determine their causes. The study looked at clusters that have occurred since 1976 when Congress passed the Toxic Substance Control Act, which was meant to regulate the use of toxic chemicals in industrial, commercial, and consumer products. The U.S. Center for Disease Control defines a cluster investigation as “a review of an unusual number, real or perceived, of health events (such as reports of cancer) grouped together in a time and location.” This is the first of several planned studies. It examined clusters in Texas, California, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Florida, Ohio, Delaware, Louisiana, Montana, Tennessee, Missouri, and Arkansas. Only one of the 42 clusters — in Libby, Montana — showed a specific source for chemical contamination: asbestos. In the other clusters, NRDC saw signs documented exposure to toxic chemicals hurt the people who lived nearby. Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20110328/hl_nm/us_usa_disease_clusters

FDA warns consumers to stop using Soladek vitamin solution. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers to stop using Soladek, a vitamin-solution product marketed by Indo Pharma, S.A., of the Dominican Republic, because it may contain dangerously high levels of vitamins A and D. Soladek is marketed with claims the product treats “hypo and avitaminosis, rickets, growth, dentition, lactation, fractures, infection, convalescence, protection and regeneration of certain epithelium (bronchial, glandular, ocular, cutaneous), corticotherapy, aging and pregnancy.” The product is sold in a box labeled in Spanish and containing a vial of the solution. FDA recently received information that tested samples of Soladek contained levels of vitamin A and vitamin D that were many times the recommended daily allowances for these vitamins. Intake of excessively high levels of these vitamins poses a risk to human health. FDA also received seven reports of serious health problems occurring in consumers using the product. The problems included decreased renal function, elevated levels of calcium in the blood, fatigue, heart arrhythmia, vomiting, and diarrhea. Consumers in possession of Soladek should stop using the product immediately. Source: <http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm248588.htm>

Initiative aims to discern fiscal effects of health data breaches. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the Shared Assessments Program have rolled out an initiative geared toward evaluating the financial impact of disclosures or breaches of personal health information (PHI), Health Data Management reports. ANSI develops standards for multiple industries, including Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) transaction sets used in health care. The Shared Assessments Program is a coalition of industry members that works on ways to assess risks for outsourced vendor projects. The aim of the project — called the ANSI/Shared Assessments PHI Project — is to develop frameworks to measure the economic effects of patient data breaches. The initiative also aims to identify legal PHI protections that already are in place, and to identify areas in the health care system where there are risks of PHI exposure. The PHI initiative’s advisory committee, which launched the project, is made up of representatives from data security companies, identity theft protection agencies, standards developers, and privacy and security legal experts. The project will produce a report for entities that handle PHI. The report will provide information on how to

protect PHI and how to respond to PHI breaches, according to Healthcare IT News. Source: <http://www.ihealthbeat.org/articles/2011/3/24/initiative-aims-to-discern-fiscal-effects-of-health-data-breaches.aspx>

TRANSPORTATION

(New York) 11 bus drivers arrested in NY crackdown on phony licenses. Police arrested 11 bus drivers around the New York area suspected of using phony aliases to get fraudulent driver licenses, officials said. The crackdown comes on the heels of a horrific bus accident that left 15 passengers dead. Authorities suspended the license of a bus driver — who has not been charged with a crime — after police said his driver's license application was found to contain false statements. A joint investigation by the New York Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) and police uncovered similar incidents. Among those arrested were Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) employees and commercial drivers, the statement said. All 11 drivers were charged with falsifying business records and offering a false instrument for filing. "This investigation is ongoing and our investigators will continue to identify and arrest all those who have submitted false identities," said the DMV's executive deputy commissioner. MTA has suspended the suspects' driving privileges pending the outcome of criminal hearings. Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2011/CRIME/03/26/new.york.bus.arrests/index.html>

(Michigan) 1,400 Michigan bridges need fixing; spans rated 13th worst. More than 13 percent of Michigan's highway bridges are structurally deficient, a number that will only grow as thousands of spans statewide approach their 50-year life expectancy, transportation leaders warned March 28. With about 1,400 bridges labeled structurally deficient by federal standards, Michigan ranks 13th worst in the nation in the number of bridges in poor condition, according to a report released March 28 by Transportation for America, a transportation advocacy group. The national average is 11.5 percent. Michigan's nearly 11,000 highway bridges are, on average, 41 years old. About 185,000 U.S. bridges are more than 50 years old, and that number could double by 2030. A label of "structurally deficient" does not mean a bridge is unsafe, but rather that shows wear and tear, and needs repair. The Michigan Department of Transportation director said March 28 that bridges in that category are inspected more frequently and would be closed immediately if they posed a risk to drivers. Source: <http://www.freep.com/article/20110329/NEWS06/103290345/1-400-Michigan-bridges-need-fixing-spans-rated-13th-worst?odyssey=mod|newswell|text|FRONTPAGE|p>

WATER AND DAMS

Report reveals hydro potential at existing dams in the US. According to an internal study by the U.S. Department of the Interior, up to 1 million megawatt hours of electricity could be generated annually, and 1,200 jobs created, by adding hydropower capacity to 70 existing dam facilities, International Water Power and Dam Construction reported April 1. The report, Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities, estimates the additional hydropower capabilities could create enough clean, renewable energy to annually power more than 85,000 households. The Bureau of Reclamation developed the report as part of the U.S. President's initiative to develop a comprehensive renewable energy portfolio and to meet 80 percent of the United State's energy needs with clean sources by 2035. The report studied 530 sites under Reclamation's jurisdiction —

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including dams, diversion structures, and some canals and tunnels. Of those sites, the assessment made a preliminary identification of 70 facilities with the most potential to add hydropower. These 70 facilities are located in 14 states. Colorado, Utah, Montana, Texas, and Arizona have the most hydropower potential. Facilities with additional hydropower potential are also found in California, Idaho, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, and Wyoming. Source: <http://www.waterpowermagazine.com/story.asp?sectioncode=130&storyCode=2059275>

Power plants face EPA cooling-water rules to protect fish. Utilities such as Entergy Corp. face U.S. rules aimed at preventing fish from being sucked into cooling-water systems and costing industry \$384 million per year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) said. The Presidential administration proposal introduced March 28 will affect more than 1,200 facilities and save billions of aquatic organisms, including 615 million fish and shellfish per year, the agency said. The EPA rule, part of a court settlement with environmental groups, will cover power plants and factories that pull water from rivers or lakes to cool machines. Existing facilities will work with states to determine how to meet the requirements while new units will have to use closed-cycle cooling, a system that draws less water and ensnares fewer fish. EPA's pending proposal under the Clean Water Act had been singled out by energy companies, industry groups, and Republican lawmakers as a regulation that may burden electric utilities and cause some coal-fired power plants to shut down. A Michigan Representative said the rule might cost utilities as much as \$300 million per site for coal-fired plants, and as much as \$1 billion for nuclear generators, exceeding EPA's projections. Source: <http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2011-03-29/power-generators-must-protect-fish-under-u-s-epa-rules-for-cooling-water.html>

Radioactive rainwater recorded eastern US. Trace amounts of radioactive iodine linked to Japan's crippled nuclear power station have turned up in rainwater samples as far away as Massachusetts during the past week, state officials said March 27. The low level of radioiodine-131 detected in precipitation at a sample location in Massachusetts is comparable to findings in California, Washington, and Pennsylvania, and poses no threat to drinking supplies, public health officials said. Utilities in North and South Carolina also reported trace amounts of radiation from the damaged nuclear reactor in Japan. Progress Energy Inc. and Duke Energy Corp. in North Carolina and South Carolina Electric and Gas Co. all operate nuclear plants and said they have detected trace amounts of radiation. Air samples from the same location as the water reading in Massachusetts have shown no detectable radiation. The samples are being collected from more than 100 sites around the country that are part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Radiation Network monitoring system. At the concentrations found, the radioiodine-131 would likely become undetectable in a "relative short time," according to a statement issued by the agency. Source: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/42301458/ns/us_news-environment/

NORTH DAKOTA HOMELAND SECURITY CONTACTS

To report a homeland security incident, please contact your local law enforcement agency or one of these agencies: **Fusion Center (24/7):** 866-885-8295(IN ND ONLY); Email: ndslic@nd.gov ; Fax: 701-328-8175
State Radio: 800-472-2121 **Bureau of Criminal Investigation:** 701-328-5500 **Highway Patrol:** 701-328-2455
US Attorney's Office Intel Analyst: 701-297-7400 **Bismarck FBI:** 701-223-4875 **Fargo FBI:** 701-232-7241

To contribute to this summary or if you have questions or comments, please contact:

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Kirk Hagel, ND Division of Homeland Security kihagel@nd.gov, 701-328-8168



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